In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1, 5, 15, 19, 29 and 33, without prejudice; amend Claims 2-4, 14, 16-18, 28, 30-32 and 42; and add new Claims 43-48 as indicated below. The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A key information issuing device according to claim 1,~~ A key information issuing device issuing key information to a key information retaining device, comprising:

an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer;

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wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a key information input module inputting the key information in contact with said key information issuing device, and

wherein said output module includes a contact module outputting the key information in contact with said key information input module.

3.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A key information issuing device according to claim 1,~~ A key information issuing device issuing key information to a key information retaining device, comprising:

an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer;

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wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

wherein said output module includes a recording medium write module writing the information to said recording medium, and issues the key information through said recording medium.

4.   (Currently Amended) ~~A key information issuing device according to claim 1,~~ A key information issuing device issuing key information to a key information retaining device, comprising:

an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device

wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module

incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

wherein said output module includes a near communication module incapable

of performing the communications with said key information retaining device beyond a

predetermined distance, and issues the key information through said near communication

module.

5-13.　(Cancelled)

14.　(Currently Amended)　　A key information issuing device according

to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 2, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that

unlocks a predetermined area.

15.　(Cancelled)

16.　(Currently Amended) ~~A key information managing method according to~~

~~claim 15,~~ A key information managing method of managing key information issued to a key

information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

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outputting the key information to said key information retaining device; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting information in a contact manner, and

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said input module.

17.   (Currently Amended) A key information managing method according to claim 15, A key information managing method of managing key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

wherein outputting the key information involves writing the information to said recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium.

18.   (Currently Amended) ~~A key information managing method according to claim 15,~~ A key information managing method of managing key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device

wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module

incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information

through said near communication module.

19-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A key information managing method

according to ~~claim 15,~~ claim 16, wherein said key information retaining device is an

electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A readable-by-computer recording medium~~

~~recorded with a program according to claim 29,~~ A readable-by-computer recording medium

recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key

information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key

information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with

the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device

wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting

information in a contact ~~manner, and~~ manner; and

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information

through said input module.

31.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A readable-by-computer recording medium~~

~~recorded with a program according to claim 29,~~ A readable-by-computer recording medium

recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key

information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key

information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with

the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device

wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input

module inputting information from a recording medium, and

wherein outputting the key information involves writing the information to said

recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium.

32.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~readable-by-computer recording medium~~

~~recorded with a program according to claim 29,~~ A readable-by-computer recording medium

recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key

information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key

information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with

the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said near communication module.

33-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to ~~claim 29,~~ claim 30, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

43. (New) A key information issuing device according to claim 3, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

44. (New)A key information issuing device according to claim 4, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

45. (New) A key information managing method according to claim 17, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

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46. (New) A key information managing method according to claim 18, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

47. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 31, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

48. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 32, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.